

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 319

By Pruitt

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Mansfield Douglas III of Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Mansfield Douglas III; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Douglas was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a native of Nashville, he was born on June 28, 1930, the second of five children born to the late Mansfield Douglas, Jr., and Shellie Martin Douglas; and

WHEREAS, at the young age of two, he was christened at Clark Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church; and

WHEREAS, educated in Nashville, Mansfield Douglas graduated from Pearl High School in 1947, and went on to attend what was then Tennessee A & I State College; and

WHEREAS, in 1951, he was drafted into the United States Army, in which he served courageously for two years before being honorably discharged and returning home to begin work at Western Electric; and

WHEREAS, on June 9 of 1957, Mr. Douglas was joined in holy matrimony with Barbara Jean Baker, and this blessed union produced five children; and

WHEREAS, Mansfield Douglas III served with acumen and alacrity as an employee of Western Electric for twenty-eight years, in which position he earned the respect of his peers and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, driven by a passion for helping his fellow citizens, he became active in the political arena when he was elected to the Metro City Council in 1963, he served on the Council

for nine consecutive terms until 1999, a total of thirty-six years, and he served longer than any other person on record; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades, Mansfield Douglas received the distinct privilege of having the Edgehill branch of the Nashville Public Library named in his honor, as well as a portion of 8th Avenue South; and

WHEREAS, in February of 2009, the Nashville Chapter of the NAACP recognized Mr. Douglas during its ninetieth anniversary celebration for his term of service as the fifteenth President at the NAACP's 100-year celebration; and

WHEREAS, a deeply admired man, Mr. Douglas was known for his willingness to help others; even when he was a young child and his father lost his eyesight, Mansfield helped in any way he could; and

WHEREAS, he was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Douglas is survived by his loving wife and his daughters, Carmela Renee Ezell and Karen Rochelle Douglas; and

WHEREAS, he will also be sorely missed by his five grandchildren, Kristie Douglas, Kimberly Ezell, Robert Ezell, Jr., Reginald Frazier, and Justin Mansfield Douglas; his godchild Rodney Stanford; his two sisters and their husbands, Mattie and Joe Stevenson and Letha and Robert Lee; his brother and sister-in law, William and Queen Douglas; and his brother-in-law, Jesse Baker, Jr., as well as a host of family and friends; and

WHEREAS, Mansfield Douglas III leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Mansfield Douglas III, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mansfield Douglas III.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.